

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1001
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

ANTI RETROVIRAL THERAPY TO MARGINALIZED POPULACE

1001. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide health services to vulnerable groups like drug addicts, sex workers, eunuch/transgenders etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that rapid and easy access to anti retroviral therapy is crucial to such marginalized populace;
- (d) if so, the necessary steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether it is also true that international funding for treatment of such people has decreased and often its withdrawal affects prevention and treatment services to such people; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): Under National AIDS Control Programme, specific services for prevention, testing and treatment of HIV/AIDS to High Risk Group populations like Injecting drug users (IDUs), female sex workers (FSWs), men having sex with men (MSM) and hijra-transgender (HTG) people are provisioned through community based Targeted Intervention Projects or general health systems.

These services include Behaviour Change Communication (BCC), provisions of condoms, treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), testing for HIV, creating enabling environment, and developing linkages with anti retroviral treatment, care and support services for those who test positive for HIV/AIDS.

(c) to (f): Keeping in view, that antiretroviral therapy is crucial for treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS, the Government provides this facility free to all those who need it, including those from marginalized populations through its 544 Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres established all over the country. Funds for anti retroviral treatment are provided by Government's Domestic Budget Support (DBS).

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